

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and Downtown News

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Bridge park stalled

New EIS will take another year



Fountain of love
Visiting from Italy, newlyweds Dominic and Maria Schafani kiss in front of the refurbished Bailey Fountain at Grand Army Plaza, which began flowing again Wednesday.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

An environmental study that needs to be completed before construction of the \$150 million Brooklyn Bridge Park can begin has been stopped since at least February, a park official told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

Wendy Leventer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation that was created to build the park, said the process of completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been halted when she was appointed president in March.

The study will not resume until after Labor Day, she said, and will then take another year to complete.

Park planners originally hoped to see shovels in the ground this past spring for the start of construction on the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development they hope

will stretch along the waterfront from Jay Street south to Atlantic Avenue.

A Manhattan-based consulting firm was hired last year to complete the complex study, analyzing everything from traffic to shadows to air quality but only completed the "existing conditions sections" before work stopped.

"Finishing the EIS is like the keys to the kingdom for getting the [project] done," Leventer said this week. "So restarting that process is a major step towards realizing the park."

The study was stopped because city and state funds had not come through, she said. When Leventer took the reins of the park development corporation, quietly replacing the former president, James Moogan, talk began to get serious about adding Pier 6 to the park. That pier has long been coveted by park planners because it provides a major thoroughfare as a gateway to the development — Atlantic Avenue.

See **STALLED** on page 4



On the edge

A man stands on the top edge of one of the Brooklyn Bridge stanchions as police and rescue teams approach him on Wednesday, July 28. The man later was brought down unharmed. Traffic on the bridge and along the FDR Drive was halted for hours.

MTA seeks fare hikes, service cuts

By Karen Matthews
Associated Press

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, facing a \$436 million budget shortfall, voted Thursday to hold public hearings on a package of fare increases and cost savings that would include raising the price of the monthly unlimited-ride MetroCard from \$70 to \$76.

The plan, which if approved would go into effect early next year, also includes 5-percent fare increases on Metro-North and the Long Island Rail Road and 25-cent or 50-cent hikes on bridge and tunnel tolls. Service changes would include cutting off-peak bus service and reducing cleaning and maintenance on the commuter lines.

MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow said he thought the agency had "achieved a good balance."

"But that's what the public hearings are going to tell us," he said. "And what we've presented today is by no means the definitive document."

The move to hold hearings on raising fares and cutting service comes just 14 months after the MTA raised single-ride bus and subway fares from \$1.50 to \$2.

Three appointees of Mayor Michael Bloomberg voted against the resolution. "We think that there are other alternatives that haven't been explored," Bloomberg told reporters at a separate briefing.

Under the plan presented Thursday by the MTA's executive director, Katherine Lapp, the \$2 base fare would remain unchanged, while the price of the 30-day unlimited MetroCard would rise and the seven-day card would go from \$21 to \$24. There would be average fare increases of 5 percent on the commuter lines, while the bridge and tunnel tolls would rise from \$2 to \$2.25 or from \$4 to \$4.50. Express bus fares would rise from \$4 to \$6.



Honky-tonkin' in the Hook

Moonshine, a new bar in Red Hook with an old honky-tonk feel, is barely two months old and already its regulars are thinking of having their mail forwarded there. It probably has something to do with owner Nick Forlano's vision: friendly bartenders who serve cheap suds in a well-worn atmosphere.

"We're happy hour, every hour," he says. You can get as happy as you want because canned beer costs \$1.50, while well drinks and most draughts are \$3.

Moonshine, which opened May 21 in the former location of Rocco's, a family-owned bar that was open from 1937 to 1975, features the aged interior, the original bar and exposed wooden latticework. There's also a big British building statue, a tribute to the owner's own pair of pooches.

But Forlano's touch has brought the country music to Brooklyn. Draught beer is served in mason jars. The jukebox is filled with country classics (but also boasts rock and punk classics). There's a big barrel of peanuts-in-the-shell near the front door for customers to dig into. And Forlano even bought and tuned an old upright piano for the bar.

"We're looking for people to come in and jam," he says, for tips and beer. He also hopes to book three-piece country and rockabilly bands in the future.

Especially attractive now, Moonshine boasts a patio with a barbecue grill and a delicious policy of BYOM, or "bring your own meat."

Moonshine is located at 317 Columbia St. between Woodhull Street and Hamilton Avenue. Open nightly from 4 p.m. Cash only. For more information, call (718) 422-0563.

— Ed Beeson

Mikvah rising in Slope

Purifying bath is part of a Jewish ritual

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The three 30-something architects who comprise Slope Associates have taken on the usual array of projects over the past year, like a brownstone renovation on Sixth Avenue, and a few other residential rehabs.

But for the majority of the year, the partners, who met at Harvard School of Design and formed their own firm in Park Slope last year, have been fixated on a pro-bono project that, when built, few people are likely to even see.

Working with Rabbi Shimon Hecht of Congregation B'nai Jacob, an orthodox synagogue on Ninth Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, the three partners agreed to design a mikvah, a Jewish ritual bath used primarily by women but also by men, on 10th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues. Despite a religious ordinance that a mikvah be built before a synagogue, there is not a single one in the neighborhood.

With soaring skylights, a return to

basic elements and a sleek design unfamiliar to anybody the architects consulted, they have designed what may be the first modern-style mikvah — a radical departure from the city's roughly 17 other such facilities.

"There is no mikvah like this," said John Coburn, of Slope Associates, who along with his business partner and wife, Mandy Lew, is a member of B'nai Jacob.

The third partner, Jason King, who describes himself as "Chinese Canadian," said he didn't know what a mikvah was until he started this project.

"Now I know more than most people need to know for somebody who will never use a mikvah — it's been a fascinating experience," said King, who ran his own firm in Los Angeles before moving to New York two years ago.

Finding a site in Park Slope wasn't easy, but after some time Hecht located a carriage house in the back of a house on 10th Street that is accessible by a small driveway.

See **MIKVAH IN SLOPE** on page 3



John Coburn, an architect with Slope Associates, displays the architecture firm's model of a mikvah to be built on 10th Street.

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elevator attack

Rapist sought



Police have released this sketch of a rapist who attacked

the suspects grabbed his wallet and then fled on Dean Street.

The bicyclist received bruises to his head and lost his wallet in the process, along with credit cards, his health insurance card and his driver's license.

Movie man bust

He wasn't "Stealing Beauty" (1996), "Stealing Harvard" (2002), or even "Stealing Home" (1988) — nope, this smalltime crook was just stealing DVDs.

An employee at a Blockbuster on Flatbush Avenue near Seventh Avenue noticed a man looking at movie titles around

snatched the iPod from off her waist as she neared the corner of Bond and Bergen streets at 4:05 pm on July 17.

The iPod was valued at \$300.



Tues. - Sat. 11-7 PM

But before fleeing, the crook stopped and picked up \$3 that was lying around, according to police.

The 31-year-old resident had left his apartment at 4 p.m. on July 10 and discovered the theft when he returned at midnight.

When a Staten Island man rolled into Park Slope this week he did not sit in six wheels.

That is to say, as he crossed the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in his Chevrolet van with a pricey motorcycle bag stashed in back. But when the motorist, 29, parked the van on Seventh Street near Sixth Avenue at 1:20 p.m. on July 11, he failed to take the bike with him.

When the driver returned to his bike, he found the motorcycle

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window once stood and his Connecticut mountain lake, valued at \$2,000, was nowhere to be found.

That stinks!

A woman who realized that it was time to buy a new Brooklyn Heights large declared that her purse was missing and told police a pair of women selling the sweet seats were the last to have had contact with her.

The two women were selling the perfume from a sidewalk table on the corner of Montague and Court streets. The time was just before noon on July 22.

"Would you like to buy some perfume?" they asked.

But the Carroll Gardens resident, who had been shopping in the area, declined their sales pitch and carried on her way.

When the woman stopped at a nearby store, she noticed the

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bered the saleswomen had touched her.

She called to cancel her credit cards but learned that the banks had already racked up more than \$15,000 in not-so- sweet charges.

8th St. muggers

"I got a knife, now give me your \$—," a less than eloquent mugger instructed a passerby on Fifth Avenue at 5:30 a.m. on July 20.

The victim, 32, was nearing EIGHTH STREET and the thugs

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After the victim failed to comply quickly enough, the pair of goons reached in and helped themselves to the his wallet, before fleeing down Eighth Street.

DUMBO break-in
A 56-year-old motorist from New Jersey parked his car at York and Washington streets at 9 pm on July 16. When he returned to the car five hours later he found the rear passenger-side window busted and the steering column damaged. Nothing was stolen from the car.

Pushed off
A pair of brazen bandits pushed a man off his bike, knocking him to the ground as he neared the corner of Dean and Hoyt streets at 10:45 pm on

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The victim, 38, told police that

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MTA restores Metrotech subway funds

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Bowing to pressure from the mayor, elected officials and Downtown Brooklyn leaders, the cash-strapped Metropolitan Transportation Authority restored funding this week to create a major transit hub in Downtown Brooklyn.

As first reported in The Brooklyn Papers last week, the MTA had pulled funding in early July for a project to link the Jay Street

Borough Hall A, C and F station and the Lawrence Street-Metrotech M and R station, citing a projected \$1 billion budget deficit in coming years.

Both stations are in dire need of renovations and are seen by backers of the city's Downtown Brooklyn urban renewal plan as necessary to accommodate the 45,000 new workers expected to flock to the area over the next decade as new office towers are built.

Faced with mounting pressure, the MTA board included the project in its five-year

spending plan, which it released on Thursday. Michael Burke, executive director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, a driving force in creating the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, breathed a sigh of relief at the news this week.

"The Downtown Brooklyn Council is very happy that the MTA has decided to fund this project again. Their investment is critical to the success of Downtown Brooklyn," Burke wrote.

It was a letter from Burke to both New York City Transit President Lawrence Reuter

and MTA Executive Director Katherine Lapp, a copy of which was obtained by The Brooklyn Papers, that exposed the agency's plan to pull funding for that project.

Citing the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, Burke wrote, "The epicenter of this new development will be Willoughby Street, Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue, making the Jay Street and Lawrence Street subway stations the commuter crossroads of Downtown Brooklyn."

The 40-block, Downtown Brooklyn Plan could bring 4.5 million square feet of

office development, 1 million square feet of commercial space and 1,000 units of housing. Over the next decade the workforce is expected to grow from 71,000 to 114,000, Burke cited in his letter.

From the beginning, both supporters and opponents of the downtown plan have called on the city to improve traffic and transportation in the area.

Community leaders have charged that the stairwells and platforms at the Lawrence Street station, at Willoughby Street, are too narrow to accommodate riders.

The MTA had pledged to widen the staircases and connect the two subway stations. Riders currently must pay two fares if they want to transfer between them.

But facing a mounting deficit, the MTA announced earlier this month that they would have to scale back service and possibly raise fares.

Councilman David Yassky, Assemblywoman Joan Millman and state Sen. Velmaette Montgomery all first off letters to the agencies this week calling for the renovations to be reinstated in the budget.

Ratner's 'Terminal' opens to huge crowd

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A bit of suburbia has come to downtown and Brooklynites can't seem to get enough of it.

When Atlantic Terminal swung open its doors last Sunday, there was hardly any room to move. Shoppers flocked to the four-story 192,000-square-foot shopping mall armed with cash and credit cards, and either loads of patience — to brave the crowds and elbow their way into the new stores — or years of shopping savvy.

The opening day "carnival," as it was billed by developer Forest City Ratner, with free hot dogs, popcorn and pretzels, as well as clowns and face painting, may have attracted some, but many others came to shop.

So many came to shop, in fact, that the Target department store, anchor tenant of the mall, quickly became that company's highest grossing store in the country — a position it has held in the several days since the store opened except on Tuesday when rain kept shoppers away and the store dipped to number three in the nation.

In order to keep up with the pace of shoppers, Target will



Bruce Ratner at opening of his Atlantic Terminal mall.

hire 100 more employees to aid its current staff of 450, said the store's manager.

"It has exceeded even our own expectations," said manager Marcus Lewis.

On Thursday afternoon, Elizabeth Magnuson, of Prospect Heights, who was babysitting for Chloe, 3, and Oliver, 1, was out for a stroll through the Target aisles.

"I love it," said Magnuson, explaining that she had plenty of room to maneuver the double-wide stroller through the store.

Despite the general enthusiasm for the mall, opponents of the \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards development, proposed to be built across the street from the mall by Forest City Ratner principal Bruce Ratner, took to the streets on the mall's opening day.

"We were not there to protest the mall, we were there to inform the public about his other project," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, referring to Ratner.

The real estate mogul secured \$114 million in Liberty Bonds, intended for the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan after 9-11, to build the Bank of New York office building and the attached \$150 million mall. That covered nearly half of the \$240 million development.

He now seeks to build a 10,000-seat arena, residential and commercial development on 23 acres emanating from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues and extending over to Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights.

Critics of the plan, carrying anti-arena placards, said the new mall has already clogged local streets with traffic and they fear what will happen if the Atlantic

Yards plan, including three soaring commercial towers and 13 residential buildings, is built.

Indeed, on Sunday, traffic on Atlantic Avenue was backed up all the way to Court Street for 650 cars of the day. Parking for most cars is available in Ratner's much-maligned Atlantic Center mall, across the street from Atlantic Terminal, but a Forest City Ratner spokeswoman declined to comment on how full the parking lot has been since the new mall opened.

A pedestrian bridge connects the two malls through Target. Shopping carts from Target cannot be taken across the bridge to the parking garage or out into the mall.

Meanwhile, on the mall's third floor, a Chuck E. Cheese's pizzeria-video arcade has been attracting a steady stream of customers and has already played host to more than 20 birthday parties, according to manager Tony Mills.

The restaurant is the chain's only current Brooklyn outlet — they operated one in the former Caesar's Bay Bazaar at Parkway in the 1980s.

DSW shoe warehouse, Bath & Body Works, Duffy's clothing, McDonald's, Rockaway Bedding and GameStop also



A clown hands out balloons and entertains during the grand opening of the Atlantic Terminal mall on Sunday.

opened in the mall this week.

Other stores and offices opening in the near future include Starbucks (in addition to a small Starbucks inside Target), Avenue, Mandoo, The Children's Place, Coldstone Creamery, Pay-

less ShoeSource, Verizon Wireless, Hush's, Guitar Center, Men's Warehouse, Mrs. Fields/TCBY and Atlantic Terminal Dental.

The Atlantic Terminal mall sits atop the convergence of 10

subway lines and the Long Island Rail Road at the Atlantic Avenue hub.

Bill Baird, a retired architect from Brighton Beach, stopped to visit the mall on Thursday on his way to catch the LIRR out to

Long Island.

Starting up at the historic Brooklyn Sanborn maps printed on the ceiling, which detail boundaries and structures for property throughout the city, he said, "I think this is beautiful."

Ikea protesters target city hearing STALLED...

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Opponents of an Ikea big box store on the Red Hook waterfront protested outside a public hearing at the City Planning Commission this week.

"Ikea on the highway, not the waterfront," yelled out Leo Sones, a Red Hook resident who is leading the fight to prevent the Swedish furniture retailer from opening a 346,000-square-foot store along the Erie Basin.

Armed with placards, the group of 20 demonstrators circled outside the meeting at 22 Rector St. in Lower Manhattan Wednesday morning.

"Ikea stinks," read one sign that was hand drawn by 7-year old Will Dudine. The boy lives just blocks from the proposed development.

At the same time, a group of Ikea supporters, mostly senior citizens from the Red Hook Houses public housing project, sat inside, in chairs set up just outside the jam-packed meeting room.

"I don't see what they're complaining about, they're



Carroll Gardens resident Buddy Scotto was among the Ikea protesters at City Planning headquarters in Manhattan.

going to be the first ones coming in and shopping," remarked one Ikea proponent, beckoned as the others in a bright-yellow T-shirt emblazoned with the words, "Ikea a Great Idea."

Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook Houses East Tenants Association, sat with them and said the community desperately needs the "jobs and benefits" Ikea officials have promised.

The home furnishings giant hopes to construct New York City's first Ikea store at the former New York Shipyard site between Dwight and Columbia streets along the Erie Basin.

The plans also include 1,400 parking spaces and more than 70,000 square feet of additional retail and restaurant space in addition to a 6.2-acre waterfront public esplanade.

The megastore is expected to create 600 new jobs, and Ikea has sold itself to local residents, primarily from the unemployment-ridden housing project, by promising to create a job training center a year before the store opens and to open the hiring process to local residents two weeks before anyone else.

"We have a lot of teenagers who are just idle, they are out selling drugs," said Mable McConey, who has lived in the Red Hook Houses for the past 39 years and hopes Ikea will offer new opportunities to the community.

The Ikea proposal has only furthered the divide in Red Hook, pitting the Red Hook Houses proponents of jobs, whose fellow public housing residents comprise roughly 70 percent of the neighborhood's population, against other residents concerned about the traffic the largely car-dependent store will bring as well as whether a box store is appropriate development for the scenic waterfront.

John McGerick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association, said at the protest rally that Ikea was using the promise of jobs to "bring support for the project."

"It's being used to divide people on the basis of some things that's not actually there," he said.

Sones added, "We would have more jobs if there was proper waterfront development."

The group and other anti-

Ikea activists have put forth a proposal by Strauser Bros. Eccles & Rouse (SBER) — a development company known for adaptive reuse projects — for a sprawling 10-story, retail, residential and commercial development that would include the New York Shipyard site.

That plan has been dismissed as impracticable by Community Board 6, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Despite verbal and written commitments by Ikea following Community Board 6's vote to approve the store's rezoning application, none have been legally binding. Those include an agreement to provide job training before hiring, a review of traffic conditions a year after the store opens, and a restrictive covenant preventing any type of jobs to be opened on the waterfront esplanade.

Jerry Armer, chairman of CB6, has said that those will remain just recommendations unless City Council members agree to adopt them as conditions of their approval of the Ikea application when it comes before them this fall.

Continued from page 1

Rather than completing a supplemental study for that portion of the park, which could have potentially stalled the development even longer, Leventer said she decided to wait and examine the project as a whole.

Community leaders this week said they were surprised to hear that a key component of the park plan had been stalled for this long.

"It's disconcerting," said Evan Thies, a spokesman for Councilman David Yassky.

"We were told that the park would be built on a certain timetable and those expectations have not been met."

The study will most likely not be completed until fall of next year.

Annual operation and maintenance costs of \$15 million will be funded by revenue generated from commercial properties associated with the park including a hotel, restaurant and other pay-for-use recreational facilities, according to the park plan.

Among those are the Empire Stores, a row of brick, Civil War-era warehouses along Water Street in DUMBO, which real estate devel-

oper Shaya Boynegreen plans to turn into a Chelsea Market-like complex of shops, galleries and offices as part of the development.

But Boynegreen, who submitted the winning proposal to develop the site almost two years ago, cannot move ahead on the 300,000-square-foot project until the EIS is complete.

A spokesman for Boynegreen could not be reached by press time.

Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, wasn't disturbed by the delay.

"The most important thing is that a good job gets done and that it gets done in a most transparent way," she said.

"What I would not accept is actions done in secret and unnecessary delays that are politically motivated as opposed to operationally necessary."

Samara Rifkin, a spokeswoman for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, a pro-park alliance said she was pleased to see Pier 6 being incorporated.

"However," she added, "we are very eager to see that the EIS process moves forward as quickly as possible."

Ikea traffic, transit ideas not enough for Red Hook

To the editor:

In last week's Brooklyn Paper, the talented traffic engineer for Ikea, Sam Schwartz, engaged in name-calling and exaggeration in seeking to discredit my analysis of the traffic impacts of the proposed Ikea in Red Hook. I will stick to the facts.

In the debate over whether a Red Hook Ikea will live up to its international reputation for "notorious traffic," the central issue is the number of trips that Ikea will generate. Many months in advance of the draft EIS, I made Ikea aware of my forecast for a Red Hook Ikea and adjacent commercial development of 20,000 vehicles trips on a typical Saturday.

The Red Hook EIS assumes nearly 14,000 vehicle trips per Saturday. It is wrong.

How do I know? Because I took my own counts in early summer of 2000 at the Ikea in Elizabeth, N.J., a less populated market than New York City. I have used Ikea's optimistic assumption that only 80 percent of

LETTER

shoppers come by auto or taxi.

Sam's use of Costco on Third Avenue in Sunset Park as an example of my erroneous forecasts is instructive. Although he mistakenly attributes to me dire predictions made by a Pratt Institute professor in 1996 for Brooklyn's first Costco megastore, the accuracy of my trip estimates is evident today. The parking lot which Sam's EIS said would never be more than half full, in fact, has cars crammed everywhere and overflows onto adjacent streets suggesting double the traffic impacts than was estimated for Costco.

That's why for Ikea and all EISs we need to see the "hard data" of traffic counts, as specified by the city environmental review manual for "backup documentation." We should not be asked to accept on

faith that the right counts were used in the traffic analysis. The EIS tells us that vehicle counts at Ikea's Elizabeth store were taken in December 2002 and January 2003. A Nov. 1, 2002 memo from the Sam Schwartz Company, in city files, reports that the trip generation data are based on the "median" of three years of electronic counts at the Elizabeth Ikea. No supporting data are provided.

Taken at face value, this means that half of the time, the Red Hook Ikea will generate more traffic than analyzed in the EIS. How does this reflect the "peak periods" required for an EIS? Using median volumes is hardly "taxing" the street system, as Sam claims to have done to find "weak links."

Weak links on our streets abound. Some were identified and will be improved by Sam's wide and welcome traffic mitigation measures. But too many weak links were avoided by the unlikely routing of Ikea traffic in the EIS, or they

were missed altogether because of faulty depiction of existing conditions. Explicitly, the EIS assumes that all Ikea bag-in/bag-out drivers from Manhattan use the tolled Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, and none take the free and more convenient FDR Expressway.

In another case, the EIS only depicts Bay Street as a "wide two-way road" with parking on both sides. It fails to describe the warm-weather transformation when Bay Street, the principal approach to the Ikea site, is narrowed by tailgating picnicking families of hundreds of players on Brooklyn's largest ball fields. The added pedestrian activity along the street does not show up in intersection pedestrian counts and analyses.

The omission in the EIS of analyzing highway impacts at all allows it to assign 86 percent of Ikea trips to highways without reporting the consequences. This ignores the reality that even on a Saturday,

much of the system is at capacity, will get worse during the long-term construction of the Gowanus Expressway, and that the approach to the Manhattan Avenue exit to the Ikea site is typically at a standstill. Thus, if 12,000 Ikea drivers (86 percent of Sam's numbers) actually do use the highways, they will push more savvy local drivers onto local streets.

The most glaring omission is the lack of any recognition in the EIS of the construction effects of the Gowanus Expressway and Brooklyn's biggest-ever building boom. It is truly disingenuous to lump the 40 million square feet of planned development in and around Downtown Brooklyn in the standard city-wide .5 percent annual traffic growth factor.

In the face of these real social costs, those who feel the lure of needed jobs is still reason enough to support the proposed Ikea have an obligation to insure the promised Ikea jobs go to our most needy

neighbors. These huge subsidies to Ikea, not demanded by other typically transit and walk-in based businesses, justify every possible investment by Ikea to prepare Red Hook residents for successful and upwardly mobile employment. This means not just preferential hiring and job training, but daycare, health care and a whole raft of critical social services targeted at Red Hook residents within the geographically broader and more affluent 11231 ZIP code.

To support Sam's point that Ikea intends serving the 57 percent of Brooklyn households without a car (and 80 percent of Manhattan households), Ikea and its allies should push for the recommendations of Community Consulting Services' widely supported Brooklyn Transit Agenda to improve transit across the borough. Of particular relevance to Ikea are installing reliable, safe elevators and escalators at the Smith and Ninth Streets — extremely high — "subway" stop, ex-

tending the F express and the V into Brooklyn, upgrading the G, instituting bus service from Red Hook through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, rationalizing the bus routes serving Red Hook that are not such long, unpredictable waiting times, and testing a new rail tunnel to Lower Manhattan to relieve Brooklyn's most crowded subways.

As a traffic engineer who initiated the city environmental review process when Sam and I were colleagues in the idealistic Lindsay era, my only interests are that environmental impact statements (EIS) are done honestly so that the public knows the trade-offs it is making and, in the case of Ikea, that the traffic in my adjoining neighborhood does not become unbearable.

— Brian Ketchum, P.E.
Community Consulting Services

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Brooklyn celebrates national night against crime Tuesday

By Deborah Kolben and Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn will celebrate its police force and the communities they serve at festivals across the borough Tuesday, Aug. 3, during the National Night Out Against Crime.

Each year, law enforcement agencies and residents in more than 10,000 communities in all 50 states gather to reaffirm their support for local anti-crime programs and boost neighborhood spirit. Since 1983, the event has been held on the first Tuesday of every August.

The National Night Out Against Crime was founded 21 years ago by the National Association of Town Watch, a nonprofit crime prevention organization. An expected 34 million people in more than 10,000 communities across the country are expected to participate on Tuesday.

84th Precinct

The 84th Precinct, covering Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn and DUMBO, will host its event outside Borough Hall, near the steps off Court Street at Joralemon

Street, beginning at 6:15 pm.

There will be a petting zoo, pony rides, and ice cream along with speeches from local elected officials, according to Leslie Lewis, president of the 84th Precinct Community Council.

"National Night Out Against Crime is important because we're able to extend the star of the event," Lewis said. "And this night of the event is the partnership between the police and the community, which made crime go down and gave us safer neighborhoods."

68th Precinct

The 68th Precinct, which patrols Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, will host its event on the 69th Street Pier at Shore Road, from 7 pm to 10 pm, said Father Richard Doscher, the newly elected president of the 68th Precinct Community Council. It will be jointly hosted with the Bay Ridge Sesqui-centennial Committee.

Captain William Aubry, commanding officer of the precinct, will also be on hand to meet with residents.

"The night is intended to be an essential statement by the community and the precinct that we work together and keep our neighborhood safe and that together we fight



A Chipotle off the old block

Kathleen Lazza takes a big bite of a burrito as her friend Laura Keith watches at Chipotle Mexican Grill's opening night benefit for the Brooklyn Arts Council on Thursday. A donation of \$5 at the door bought customers a large burrito and drink at the new Montague Street eatery.

crime," said Doscher.

"But the most important statement is the unity expressed in this multicultural community

of Bay Ridge where everybody stands together."

Activities will include crime prevention demonstrations from police and military units. A huge lighted tent erected specifically for the event will house a disc jockey, who will be handing out party favors.

78th Precinct

In the 78th Precinct, covering Park Slope and Gowanus, celebrants will meet on the corner of Park Place and Fifth Avenue at 6 pm for a parade to Grand Army Plaza.

Marchers will walk north on Fifth Avenue to Union Street then east to Seventh Avenue and up to Flatbush Avenue. The march will proceed on Flatbush Avenue back to Grand Army Plaza where officials from the 78th Precinct will have a gathering at 8 pm until about 9:30 pm with refreshments.

62nd Precinct

The 62nd Precinct, which patrols Bensonhurst and Gravesend, will host its event on Bay 22nd Street at Bath Avenue, near the stationhouse, said Capt. Frank Cangiarella, commanding officer of the precinct. It will run from 7 pm to 10 pm.

"It's always gone well," said Cangiarella. "And I hate to brag, but they tell me the 62nd Precinct does it best." With a full slate of activities for the kids, a karate demonstration and, of course, plenty of food and soft drinks, Cangiarella may be on to something.

"We welcome the community," he emphasized. "I'll get

to meet the people that I haven't met already."

"It really represents a night where people are encouraged to come out," said Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile, who, like state Sen. Marty Golden, will visit both the 68th and 62nd precinct events on Tuesday. "It's a good time where the whole community comes together, and kids too. It's not only about crime. It's a community block party."

76th Precinct

In the 76th Precinct of Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook, residents will gather in Coffey Park, bounded by Richards, King, Dwight and Verona streets, at 1 pm for a cleanup of the park.

A DJ, choir and pony rides will all be on hand along with a scavenger hunt, arts & crafts, and lessons on urban gardening.

The event will run until about 6 pm.

88th Precinct

In Fort Greene, the 88th Precinct is celebrating the day with a party in Fort Greene Park at DeKalb Avenue and Washington Park running from noon until 8 pm.

72nd Precinct

In the 72nd Precinct, including Sunset Park, Prospect Park South and Windsor Terrace, there will be events and festivities from 4 pm to 8 pm at Sunset Park's baseball field at 44th Street and Sixth Avenue.

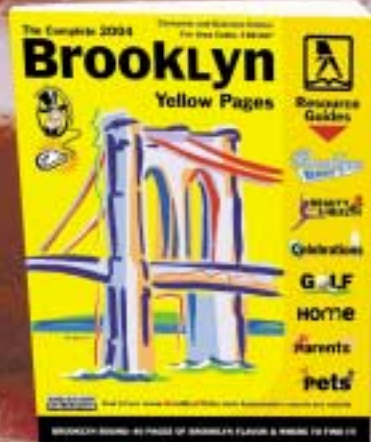
Games for children and free food will be doled out along with information about crime prevention programs and bicycle registration.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 31, 2004



Tales of a 'Domi-Knit-Trix'

By Chiara V. Cowan
for The Brooklyn Papers

A brown building with a tiny white awning sits at 271 Third Ave. at President Street in Gowanus. The door is closed and white-painted wrought iron covers the shaded windows. But behind this unassuming facade, which once housed a funeral home, something is brewing — and it ain't beer.

To any outsider what goes on inside is known as knitting, but at Alchemy Fiber Arts Studio, they prefer to call it "Hand Spun Magic," and the store's owner is "magical" in every sense of the word.

Wearing a long, deep-purple, crushed velvet cardigan, a black skirt and embroidered gold-and-black "fantasy spinning shoes," Alchemy's single-named owner, Prophet, 42, spent a recent weekday afternoon spinning thick, studio-dyed fibers on a 5-foot high wooden spinning wheel into tight bundles of yarn while 106.7 Lite FM played softly in the background.

Although she is able to spin yarn in anything from high heels to sneakers, she prefers her special shoes.

"They bring me to that old, fabbed knitting place," said Prophet, showing off her elfin-shoes as she pedaled rhythmically, spinning a mix of llama wool and copper thread.

While she works, knitters occasionally stop in to purchase materials or say hello. During regular hours, anyone is able to sit in the studio and knit, free of charge, surrounded by Alchemy's spiritual energy. Tea or coffee is always available, along with the light chime of music ranging from new age to pop to classics and the priceless advice of a knitting master.

FASHION

Alchemy, located at 271 Third Ave. at President Street in Gowanus, is open from 3:30 pm to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from noon to 5 pm on Sundays. Weekly Wednesday knitting circles run from 7 pm to 10 pm and cost \$12 per session to be purchased in sets of four. Yarns range in price from \$10-\$25. Private lessons available for \$35. Discover Card, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Gift certificates are also available. For more information, call (718) 722-7399 or (917) 755-0950, or visit www.b72.com.

Prophet is a creative genius," said Ramit Kreiner, of Boerum Hill. "She can write patterns on the spot, and she's excellent in math."

Everyone who enters Alchemy agrees with Kreiner.

"Whatever ideas you have, she can create them for you," said Kirsten Endacott, of Park Slope. "You visualize and she sets your



The 'magic' circle: (From left to right) Marcela Mulieris, Dani Demars, Michelle Oliveira and Anita Jacobs knit and chat in Prophet's Wednesday knitting circle at Alchemy. (At left) Prophet, right, instructs Edwina Dawson-Moore on how to get started with circular needles to make a hat.

Prophet says has been knitting since she was a little girl, inspired by her grandmother, who knitted for Chanel, and learned from a neighbor. Although she was working in public relations, Prophet had an epiphany while knitting a sweater for her daughter. She decided she was going to open a knitting store. She visited five stores in Park Slope, and eventually opened the Knitting Salon on Fifth Avenue.

"My husband asked, 'Do you even know how to run a knitting store?' and I said, 'Ask me in a year,'" recalled Prophet. That was three years ago.

She spent more than two years on Fifth Avenue, but was forced to leave after her rent was tripled. From there she opened a small studio on Windsor Place for a couple of months, but in the end, settled on Third Avenue, where she opened last February. Through it all, Prophet's knitters have followed her skin wherever it led.

"I'm moving to Cranford, N.J., next month," said Janine Sullivan, of Marine Park, "and I'm still going to come because this is a very important part of my week, creatively."

Sullivan, who has been knitting with Prophet for two years, is working on a vest for her husband. Although the project should take her one month to finish, Sullivan predicts it will take a couple of months due to her other commitments.

"I really only knit here," said Sullivan, "and although I don't need any direct help tonight, I always learn something from my interactions with others here."

On Wednesdays, Prophet hosts her weekly knitting circle, where Alchemy's regulars, including Kreiner, Endacott and Sullivan, knit everything from sweaters and shawls to bags and stuffed animals. The group of nearly 20 knitters, made up of men and women, beginners to advanced, chat about their personal lives as well as their knitting concerns. They even order sushi together.

"It's good for after working all day," said Marcela Mulieris, of Bay Ridge. "It's like the bar without the alcohol."

Alchemy, named for the medieval philosopher, is named for the medieval philosopher.

See ALCHEMY on page 12



Made with love: Wool and angora hand-knit hats are for sale at The Yarn Tree in Williamsburg.

Knitty gritty

Upon observing their intimate and relaxed interactions one might assume that Diana Diaz, Mirza Good, Kimberly Provenzano and Sara Carder are childhood friends. They are not. They aren't even distant family members or co-workers or members at the same gym. They all, however, have one thing in common — they love to knit.

"It's addictive," said Provenzano. "It's like shoes, I need to have it in my life."

These four women, and several others, have been spending weekday evenings at The Yarn Tree in Williamsburg, since the store opened in August 2001. Yarn Tree owner Linda LaBelle could not imagine her shop without them.

"This group has been with me for so long that they have gone through all of the classes," said LaBelle. "They don't even

need me. They're just nice enough to let me sit here."

Sitting is hardly what LaBelle does. Whether ordering fibers from farms around the globe, spinning or dyeing yarns, or admiring glances of the lumps whose fibers adorn her store's walls, LaBelle stays busy. She also sells, weaves, knits and crochets. And most importantly, she teaches.

In Boerum Hill, another knitting class takes place at Knit Away, formerly known as Knitting Hands, at 398 Atlantic Ave. This one, however, is a bit more straight-laced.

Cubies line the walls in every fabric and color shade possible. Four women, including the store's owner, Setta Heerlein, receive guided assistance from one of the store's instructors Linda Kass-Muller in the back of

See KNIT on page 12

THEATER

Short plays

For the final production of its inaugural season, the Outside Art Festival at BAM Park will present three 15-minute plays by the Sultane Players, also in its inaugural season.

"We wanted something we could do around the city, have some fun and not have to use a theater," says Kathleen Grace, founder and director of the company.

That "something" turned out to be 15-minute renditions of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" and Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie."

Grace says she picked these works because they're "interesting plays with great characters, and when they're adapted down to 15 minutes, they're extremely funny."

"It takes the tragedy to a melodramatic level that points out what's ridiculous about the characters," she notes.

Nevertheless, Grace claims to have a profound respect for the American classics.

"I really love classic American plays," she says. "People see Shakespeare all the time. So many people haven't seen 'Death of a Salesman' and don't even know about it. This won't be the same as doing the full-length plays, but it might make people want to read the plays or go see them."

"15 Minute Versions of Classic American Plays" will be presented Aug. 5-7, at 7 pm, in BAM Park (Lafayette Avenue at Fulton Street in Fort Greene). All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call (212) 689-0808.

—Paulanne Simmons



CINEMA

Night of Bond

Enjoy a wildly campy evening under the stars on Aug. 5, when Celebrate Brooklyn screens "Thunderball," 1965's James Bond vehicle. In this sexy adventure flick, 007 (Sean Connery, pictured) must track down

villainous Emilio Largo (Adolfo Celi) to avert the threat of nuclear destruction. Along the way, Bond is understandably distracted by the dangerous curves of Dominic "Domino" Derval (Claudine Auger).

Terence Young's film won an Oscar for its Special Visual Effects, including an underwater fight scene.

"Thunderball" begins at 8:35 pm and will be preceded by a 7:30 pm concert by Losers Lounge, the musicians collective who will play a swinging set of vintage Bond tunes.

The Prospect Park bandshell is located at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Suggested admission is \$3. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45.

—Lisa J. Curtis

FASHION

Get the boot

If you thought you had a problem saying no to a new pair of shoes, 24,000 square feet of temptation just arrived in Brooklyn to make it even more difficult to deny your shoe habit.

DSW, an off-price, self-service shoe retailer, opened a new store at the Atlantic Terminal mall on July 25.

"This new ... store will offer more than 38,000 pairs of shoes and more than 900 styles and 165 name brands and designers," said DSW spokesman Mike Levinson in a statement.

The shoe warehouse claims to have the same, current styles found in department stores, but up to 50 percent below their regular retail prices. While 70 percent of the merchandise

includes, including shoes, handbags and accessories are for women, there is a selection for men.

Debbie Ferree, executive vice president of merchandising for DSW, predicted some women's shoe trends for fall 2004.

"If [a woman] wants to show off color this fall, patent (leather) and croco looks are a great way to do so while also highlighting sophistication," said Ferree. She also said women's shoes inspired by the menswear look are a sexy must-have.

"But these are anything but old-time styles from your grandfather's closet," said Ferree. Look for shoes embellished with tweed, pinstripes, plaids and tassels.

With the recent storms, we've already started seeing the new trend in women's boots: rubber for rainy days. Brooklyn ladies are splashing through puddles in cheerfully colorful, flowered, striped and geometric-patterned Wellingtons.

The new mall is located at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues adjacent to the Atlantic Avenue subway and LIRR hub. DSW is on the lower level. For store hours and more information, call (718) 789-4973 or visit www.dswshoe.com.

—Lisa J. Curtis

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Killing spree

Tales of murder and mayhem in Brooklyn fly off shelves

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

While real estate developers are gleefully cackling at the soaring prices and rampant boutique-ification of Brooklyn, the authors of the short stories in Akashic Books' new anthology paint a very different picture.

"Brooklyn Noir" is definitely not about the gentrified Brooklyn with baby boutiques filled with high-priced European clothing or the made-to-order designs of Smith Street clothes. This Brooklyn is cagey and unpredictable. This is about the shadowy corners, the musty old bars and the sidewalks littered with broken glass.

In "Brooklyn Noir," you can't take anything for granted. The cops are often the bad guys and women are fearsome femme fatales. And the way people die is as varied as the way they have sex—which is to say, widely varied.

And it's selling like hotcakes!

Publisher Johnny Temple said the book, which was officially released on July 19, has already gone into a second printing.

"We've already sold 10,000 copies," said the Fort Greene resident. "For an independent company like us, that is really a lot of books. It's a hit for us."

Temple said that several Italian companies are already in a bidding war over the book and there is interest from a French publisher, too.

"The reviews are pouring in and they are outstanding," said Temple.

"Brooklyn Noir" is a collection of 20 short stories—each set in a different Brooklyn neighborhood—by 20 authors. To aid the geographically challenged, the book even has a map of Brooklyn, littered with dead bodies for easy neighborhood identification.

So why the frenzy for a book so loaded with down-and-out underdogs and gruesome murders set in our own backyards?

The editor of the book, 45-year-old Brooklyn Heights resident Tim McLoughlin, takes a stab at the question.

"I think that Brooklyn has changed its image a lot in the last 20 years," he said. "Obviously there's a whole new group of young people. It's become a hip borough to live in, and yet you still have a really strong, old-time presence. And the one thing that Brooklyn still has, that Manhattan has mostly lost, is neighborhoods."

"It is a rare treat if you're in Manhattan and you find a neighborhood, but there are precious few, whereas Brooklyn still has a strong neighborhood sense to it," said McLoughlin.

"If you walk from Cobble Hill to Carroll Gardens, it feels different. From Sunset Park to Bay Ridge, or Bay Ridge to Bensonhurst, it feels different. There's a different vibe. It's a different community. People moving here know that. And old-timers have always known that."

And in "Brooklyn Noir," the appeal of old-time Brooklyn comes through.

"I really wanted it to be all across the borough, representative of the borough in all of its diversity. And I also wanted it to be representative in terms of styles, old-fashioned stories and real, cutting-edge stories that would shock people a little bit as long as they were well-written."

McLoughlin even photographed the cover of "Brooklyn Noir" with that dual image, a woman's leg, tattooed with a rose, is poised over a "BKLYN" manhole cover.

"I wanted it to feel a little bit con-



Book 'em: (From left to right) Together for readings from the new collection of short fiction, "Brooklyn Noir," are author Thomas Morrissey, model Rosemary Christiano (whose tattooed leg is on the book's cover), author Lou Manfredo and editor-author Tim McLoughlin at A Novel Idea bookstore in Bay Ridge on July 16.

temporary and edgy. That's why I liked the tattoo. But I also wanted a '40s or '50s noir feel, that's why the sepiatone and brownstone kind of look to the background. I wanted it to be both classic and contemporary. And I think that's what appeals to people, why we're catching everyone."

McLoughlin's leggy model was a colleague, Rosemary Christiano, from his day job as a clerk at Kings County Supreme Court. In addition to editing the volume, and photographing the cover, McLoughlin authored one of the more compelling short stories in the volume, "When All This Was Bay Ridge," set in Sunset Park.

His story is about a man attempting to get some answers about a photo of his ex-cop father and an unidentified woman, after his father's death. His interrogation of his father's old NYPD cronies in their local watering hole rips the lid off an unexpected Pandora's box of revelations.

Did McLoughlin find inspiration at his day job in Downtown Brooklyn? While he says he hasn't yet culled any plots from the courthouse's docket of cases, he admits it helps his technique.

"I've been here 20 years and it certainly colors the way I think," said McLoughlin, who also authored the

award-winning novel, "Heart of the Old Country" (Akashic, 2001). "Working in an environment where you're dealing with crime certainly colors the way you look at the world, but certainly I was drawn to crime fiction already, before I had this job. It does help with the writing—it helps keep me up-to-date on the vernacular of the streets."

Now that McLoughlin's book is in stores, he has had to jump on the reading and book-signing wagon.

"It was terrifying at first, but I'm enjoying it," he said. "The audiences are very supportive and I'm not alone—usually there are two or three other [Brooklyn Noir] readers there with me. Once you warm up, people start asking you questions. It just becomes a Brooklyn thing, where people start talking about neighborhoods. 'How come you don't have a Flatbush story?' and stuff like that. And I tell them, 'I tried. I wanted one. Where do you get a good Flatbush story?'"

The good news is that there may be a lot more Brooklyn stories to come, because McLoughlin says he is in talks with Temple about publishing a second volume.

"If we do another volume of all origi-

inals, we would get some new blood in there, too," said McLoughlin. "I'm a big fan of Jonathan Lethem's. And I would love to get something from Paul Auster, too."

The current volume has stories by Pete Hamill and Neal Pollack as well as many exciting newcomers like Kenji Jasper ("Seeking Salamanca Mitchell," 2000) and Nicole Blackman ("Blood Sugar," 2002).

"We filled this book so fast it was remarkable to me; it was about a year," said McLoughlin. "That's pretty quick when you're reading 60 to 70 stories. The publisher originally wanted 250 pages, and it came in at 360, but I think we're both very happy with that. It feels like a substantial volume."

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: PARK SLOPE'S SEVENTH AVENUE

Blue Apron Foods

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Park Slope resident Ted Matern and former Sloper Alan Palmer opened this scrumptious cheese and charcuterie shop in November 2002. With 60 years of combined experience in the gourmet food business — including at Oscar & DeLuca and Bloomingdale's — the owners have made Blue Apron Foods a destination for foodies who prize high-quality goods, moderate prices and top-notch service.

Blue Apron also sells all of those must-have packaged foods that make for elegant accessories to your smoked meats, fishes and cheeses: mustards and other condiments, fruit jams, chutneys and fresh-baked bread from Manhattan's Sullivan Street Bread and Amy's Bread, and Brooklyn's own Royal Crown. Ask for Pan d'Avignon breads on the weekends.

"We key in on a lot of Brooklyn products, including Jacques Torres chocolate from DUMBO, fruit tarts from Margaret Palca, in Red Hook, and Amy Berg's cookies from Park Slope," says Palmer.

Closed Mondays. Note: Blue Apron Foods is closed for vacation July 30-Aug. 11.

Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 369-7776

Cafe Steinhof, named after a famous park in Vienna, has a European feel — a German "bier garden" with a hint of British pub. True to its cultural roots and the taste of owner and chef Paul Goebert, the restaurant serves spatiale (small dumplings), schwein (meat that's been dipped in egg, breaded and fried) and sauerbraten (beef that's been marinated for several days and then roasted). Cafe Steinhof offers live beers on tap and 10 bottled beers from Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and Britain, as well as a full bar. Cafe Steinhof is open daily for lunch and dinner except Mondays, when it's closed for lunch. On Monday nights, instead of the usual menu, 50 bowls of goulash and 57 sauteed trout is offered.

Cafe Steinhof screens '60s and '70s movies every Sunday, including such favorites as "Jaws" and "Deliverance." Occasionally, musicals such as "Moulin Rouge" are shown on Wednesday evenings. Be sure to visit on the first Wednesday of every month for live music. Open daily.

Cocina Cuzco

222 Seventh Ave. at Third Street, (718) 788-5036

Cocina Cuzco, (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.95-\$17.50. This colorful eatery even has a colorful menu, featuring mostly Peruvian cuisine. The stunningly picturesque interior is reminiscent of a gorgeous salt-water fish tank. Order a plate of potato salad for starters: potatoes stuffed with goat cheese, pork and chicken. If you're a ceviche fan, go for the tuna, marinated in lime, ginger, garlic and coconut juice. Some options for the main course: paelle cuzco, shrimp, chicken, chorizo, cheese and calamari, cooked in saffron and served over rice; or trucha a la plancha, skillet-roasted trout in a calamansi olive caper butter, served with avocado salad and rice. Sidewalk cafe opens now for the summer.

Corn Bread Cafe

434 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 788-3838

Corn Bread Cafe (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$15.95. Owner and chef Bettina Harris' Corn Bread Cafe keeps mouths watering with her "down-home barbecue," and "Taste of New Orleans." Entrees like the Maryland crab cakes with remoulade, crawfish etouffee, and penne with spinach, roasted peppers and mushrooms show that this is no ordinary soul food restaurant. Corn Bread Cafe's Po' Boy sandwich — chicken or fish served on a baguette topped with sweet pickles, coleslaw and tomatoes — are humble but delectable. Desserts like the double chocolate layer cake and warm peach cobbler ensure a sweet ending. Enjoy their outdoor patio on the weekends. Open daily. Weekend brunch, too.

Fuji San

161 Seventh Ave. at Garfield Place, (718) 768-3976 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.50-\$16.50.

A relaxing lunch or dinner, with large windows opening onto the street, is a great place for you at Fuji San. An affable pair of sushi chefs greet you as you step in, forcing you to choose between watching them or looking at your dining companion.

Hiki, marinated seaweed with bean curd and carrots is a fresh option, or a late sushi selections might be what you're looking for. Tempura! Sure! The Fujian tempura is shrimp, fish and vegetables. Or try the founder butter-lyle, lightly battered, broiled and served with the chef's special sauce. Tanikatsu (sliced fillet of pork cutlets in breaded batter with its own sauce, tello, teriyaki, vegetarian sushi and maki) are available. Wrap it all up with delicately flavored ginger, red bean or green tea ice cream or have the ice cream tempura style, encased in a crunchy fried coating. Open Monday to Saturday for lunch and dinner and Sundays for dinner only.

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

The smoked trout salad appetizer at Cafe Steinhof.

Inaka Sushi House

236 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 499-7866

The making of those beautiful little works of art called sushi is so fascinating many people will prefer sitting at the bar where owner Joanne Wu's cadre of superb chefs work their magic. Others may prefer the comfort of Inaka's dining room. Either way, a good idea for beginners is to order chef Jack Chen's nine-piece sushi deluxe box, which contains yellow tail, salmon, mackerel, fan fish roll, crab meat, white fish in several varieties, shrimp and tuna roll. Sushi can also be ordered a la carte and in more modest combinations. Teriyaki fans will find Inaka's dishes expertly seasoned and multi-layered with tender. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner and on Sundays for dinner only.

Joe's Pizza

137 Seventh Ave. at Carroll Street, (718) 398-1918 and (718) 398-9201 (AmEx, MC, V) Pizzas: \$12 and up.

Fans of the famous Joe's Pizza on Bleecker Street don't have to trek to Manhattan for a slice anymore. Joe's opened its Park Slope outpost in July 2003, and it offers up the same crispy, thin-crust pizza. Enjoy a traditional pie, or give the white pizza (topped with ricotta and mozzarella without tomato sauce) or Sicilian square a try. And there's no need to stand at those circular tables to eat — Joe's Pizza in Brooklyn has plenty of seating. Open daily.

Lemongrass Grill

61a Seventh Ave. at Berkeley Place, (718) 399-7700, www.lemongrassgrill.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$17.

This unassuming spot, tucked next to a private house and just a tad off the beaten path, is a real find. Small, cozy and comfortable, the interior gives way to a charming outdoor garden, where steamed vegetable dumplings and skewers of chicken or beef satay topped with spicy peanut sauce, are the order of the day. Here's an interesting item: spicy mint fried rice with chicken or beef, seasoned with chili, garlic, and fresh mint — not a breath in! For your main course, try the pig's head pork, whole fried crispy red snapper with chili, garlic and tamarind, or the crispy duck with garlic, chili, pineapple and fresh basil. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

The Minnow

442 Ninth St. at Seventh Avenue, (718) 832-5500

The Minnow combines classic seafood dishes with zesty sauces, and an Upper East Side chic — lots of warm wood and softly lit walls. But the best part is that it's all at reasonable prices. Chef and owner Aaron Bailey recommends the sugarcane wild king salmon over homemade lemon thyme spatchole with fresh peas, mushrooms and mint, or skate osso buco served with fresh pancetta and caper vinaigrette over olive mashed potatoes. The Minnow also offers an all-day \$28 prix-fixe menu tasting menu on Mondays, which includes an appetizer, entree and dessert. Each course is accompanied by a glass of white or red wine. Sunday brunch and outdoor dining available as well. Open daily for dinner, except Tuesdays. Beginning Aug. 8, 2004, the Minnow will be open for lunch.

Sotto Voce

225 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 369-9322 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$18.95.

A favorite lunch spot of indie filmmakers and actors in Park Slope, this six-year-old restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner, serving top-notch contemporary Italian cuisine from chef-owner Mario DiLillo. Sotto Voce serves lunch, dinner and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Seating available both indoors in the light, airy dining room and outside (weather permitting) in its sidewalk cafe where diners happily gawk at the bustling Seventh Avenue shoppers. The entrees include a wide range of pasta, fish, meat and chicken dishes. Fudili with four-cheese cream sauce is legendary. End your meal with a housemade Sotto Voce dessert such as homemade apple pie or cheesecake. (The tramisu is superb!) Ask about low-carb specials.

Tea Lounge

350 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street, (718) 768-4966

A Chinese philosopher and tea enthusiast Tien Yehing once said, "Tea is a drink to forget the din of the world." Greg Wolf and Jonathan Spill have brought the taste of the world to their Park Slope Tea Lounge. "We mesh all tea cultures from English to Asian to Moroccan," said Spill. Wolf and Spill also serve pastries, croissants and cakes from local bakeries; beers from Brooklyn Brewery; and wines from neighborhood merchants. Open daily. A second Tea Lounge, with a full bar, opened in August 2003 at 837 Union St. for between 44th and Seventh avenues. For more information, call (718) 789-2722.



All-American

New Flatbush restaurant harks back to simpler times

By Lisa J. Curtis
CQ Brooklyn Editor

With its American classics served by a friendly staff in a farmhouse chic setting, dining at Picket Fence restaurant is akin to walking into an idyllic scene from the film "Pleasantville."

The eatery opened in May in the former location of Rug-B, a Caribbean restaurant, on Cortelyou Road in Flatbush.

A white picket fence encircles the perimeter of the cheerful space with wide-plank, wood floors, yellow walls and green-and-white gingham curtains. Decorative white window frames are hung on the walls as well as art by chef Graham Meyerson's father, Ron. The wood tables and chairs are well spaced with lots of elbowroom, yet diners can also opt for al fresco dining in the rear garden.

There, modern metal chairs and tables shaded by umbrellas have equally generous aisles. In the garden, diners will observe first-hand the freshness of Meyerson's tomatoes and herbs — grown on-site. Meyerson said he buys his produce from the Cortelyou Farmers Market, where he can also be seen giving cooking demonstrations. (The market is open on Saturdays, in the PS 139 schoolyard, across the street from the restaurant.)

In the evenings, votive candles and twinkling lights in the trees transform Picket Fence's chic, pebble-strewn garden. Meyerson's menu caters to the entire family, with a list of self-described "comfortable food" entrees ranging from turkey meatloaf to leg of lamb to a grilled salmon BLT to a complete children's menu with free dessert.

Don't be afraid to bring your (well-behaved) children to Picket Fence. In addition to a children's menu, it offers those must-have amenities — highchairs, a kid-size picnic table, Magma Doodles, Elch-a-Sketches and a large changing table in the powder room — without seeming to forsake its childless patrons. On a recent Sunday evening, Meyerson's wife, Chelsi, who manages the restaurant, was spotted feeding her own smiling 11-month-old baby Olivia, while a diverse crowd of young and old couples and gossiping girlfriends filled the surrounding tables.

Picket Fence is located at 1310 Cortelyou Road between Argyle Road and Rugby Road in Flatbush. Cash only. \$5-\$7.50 (includes dessert). Open for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays and open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. For more information, call (718) 282-6661.

have become so enchanted with this Brooklyn neighborhood full of Victorians that they recently moved here. (Meyerson's brother, Ross, is not only a partner in the restaurant, he's president of the Beverly Square East Neighborhood Association.)

Meals at Picket Fence begin with fresh-popped, buttery popcorn. Although I consider myself a fresh bread junkie, I was surprised to find that my companion and I did not miss it and happily devoured the fluffy popcorn so quickly that our fingertips were soon slipping along the bottom of the bowl.

This retro-cool starter was refreshingly unpretentious (although credit must be given to the Ground Round chain for being the first to swap popcorn for bread).

Among the main courses, the mountain of grilled skirt steak (seasoned in garlic and herbs) served with roasted shallot puree, green beans, a tower of onion rings and gorgonzola sauce was a hearty classic that should always be on the menu. The creamy sauce was the perfect foil to the tangy shallots, while the crunchy green beans and the

Come on over: (Above left) Families can take advantage of the child-size picnic table in the rear garden of the new Flatbush restaurant, Picket Fence. (Above) Instead of bread, chef-owner Graham Meyerson sends fresh-popped popcorn to each table.

"It's more interesting than bread," explained Meyerson. "And the kids love it."

Meyerson unleashes his sophisticated side on the artfully constructed appetizers. The warm roasted corn pan cake topped with a magnificent pile of cured salmon and a dollop of lemon cream had the ultimate combination of textures. The slightly sweet, crunchy whole kernels of corn in the pancake, the slightly salty, meaty flesh of the melt-in-your-mouth salmon and the luscious cream dotted with chives are the stuff that dreams are made of. Order two, because you won't want your dining companion to steal a single bite of yours.

The stacked tomato bread salad is a leaning tower of ruby red tomato slices and toasted circles of sourdough bread, sprinkled with shavings of ricotta salata and loads of fresh, aromatic basil. The vibrantly hued tomatoes and basil made for a pretty picture, but the mouth-puckering combination of vinaigrette and pickled onions could have been splashed with more restraint and the scrumptious cheese shavings could have been more liberally strewn about.

Among the main courses, the mountain of grilled skirt steak (seasoned in garlic and herbs) served with roasted shallot puree, green beans, a tower of onion rings and gorgonzola sauce was a hearty classic that should always be on the menu. The creamy sauce was the perfect foil to the tangy shallots, while the crunchy green beans and the

thick, deep-fried goodness of the onion rings' shells added fun texture. While I could have easily gobbled a larger serving of the crispy-skinned, grilled sea bass perched on a bed of corn, marinated cherry tomatoes and green beans, it had a bit too much mouth-puckering lemon in its broth. The lemon threatened to upstage the plate despite its being filled with such a beautiful medley of fresh, robust vegetables.

Meyerson says that while his menu is "classical," he offers more adventurous fare on his list of daily specials. His short summer menu is perfectly paired with his small, reasonably priced American wine list (which offers one fabulous red and one excellent white by the glass).

Finally, Picket Fence has an irresistible list of housemade desserts! The many temptations include the Hudson Valley apple crisp with vanilla ice cream; the caramelized banana, walnuts and butterscotch sundae; the chocolate bread pudding (for the chocolate lover, with chocolate syrup and whipped cream); and the dense, warm chocolate cake (for the choc-o-holic). Meyerson said he only serves ice cream from the Vermont-based Ben & Jerry's.

The Meyerson family's Picket Fence certainly offers many reasons for one to be proud of American cuisine and the Flatbush neighborhood as well as the opportunity to enjoy it all in a comfortable, country-style setting. Don't wait to visit with your new neighbors.

Margarita happy hour

Camina Mexican Bar & Restaurant brings a little sizzle and a lot of flare to the gentle streets of Park Slope. Having opened in early June, it is quickly becoming a neighborhood favorite with its nightly margarita happy hours and home-style Mexican cooking.

The menu is laden with south of the border favorites — fajitas, enchiladas, cornucopias and nachos — as well as several departures from the usual, such as the *huchinango al ajillo*, red snapper served with a garlic sauce, black beans and rice.

Camina's soups are luxuriously rich and creamy. For a real treat, try chef Augustin Garcia's *sopa de frijol negro*, a black bean soup that will leave you wondering if this restaurant doesn't belong in SoHo.

"Some of our dishes are cooked with white tequila to add extra flavor," says owner Esteban Chacua, who boasts a cache of more than 26 different kinds of tequila behind the bar. With 18 years

of restaurant experience, Chacua, also a co-owner of Manhattan's La Margarita, knows how to make customers happy.

"Some of the customers ask for special brands of tequila and we try to stock them," he says.

Those that come for the food are usually tempted to stay for drinks. With 12 flavors of margaritas, all half-price during happy hour from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm daily, patrons often stay to sit at the bar and admire the sleek, modern decor or lounge outside on the sidewalk patio. And one shouldn't miss the mariachi band on Friday nights. The romantic Mexican serenades befit this elegant, candlelit bistro.

Camina, 494 Fourth Ave. between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope, accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Camina is open daily, from noon to 1 a.m. Entrees: \$6.95-\$14.95. For more information, call (718) 369-5850.

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Where to Go

Sat, July 31

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

STREET FAIR: Maimonides Medical Center offers screenings, health education and health insurance enrollment. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Eighth Avenue and 47th Street. (718) 283-7429. Free.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR: Mauricio Lomera leads a tour of Ft. Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25 per person, 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at New York Marriott Brooklyn. 100 Park Avenue, 10th floor. (718) 789-0430.

HEROES AND SCOUNDRELS: Green-Wood Cemetery offers a tour. Actors in period dress offer a guided tour of its famous and infamous residents. \$20, \$12.50 kids under 12. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. Call for time. (718) 658-3028.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Lowell Spinners 6 p.m. Kaysen Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 489-8497.

PERFORMANCE

THE HELL FESTIVAL: Brooklyn presents a multi-arts festival featuring theater, visual art, dance, poetry, music and more. Today, "The Bitter Poet: Looking for Love in Hell," 10:30 am. Also, "Lullaby to Jesus, or Holy Frankenstein?" 3:15 pm. Additionally, "Cold Fire" 4:45 pm. Also, "Moloch and Other Demons" at 7 pm. More. \$10 tickets sold at the door on a first-come basis. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 707-6189.

OUTSIDE ART: BAM Local Development Corporation hosts a performance of "Love's Labor's Lost" 10:30 am. Free. BAM Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 489-8497.

BOOT BUSH: Event hosted by Brooklyn Brewery to give President Bush the boot. \$25, 7 pm to midnight. 79 North 11th St. (718) 488-7422.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Latin music series presents "Fire and other guests." \$3, 7:30 pm. Prospect Park bandshell. Enter park at Ninth Street and Prospect Park. (718) 655-7882.

BARGE MUSIC: Presents Concerti artist featuring works by Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Mozart, Haydn and Tchaikovsky. Also, founder Ochi and Bohm play violin. \$75, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-6000.

BROOKLYN VECUM: presents "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" 6:30 in 60 minutes. \$15 (online www.brooklynvecum.com). 11:30 am. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 470-7324.

CHILDREN

BARNES AND NOBLE: Picture book hour. 11 am. 100 Court St. (718) 246-4976. Free.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids are invited to design and to craft a subway or bus stamp. Use to decorate stationery. Appropriate for ages 2 to 5. \$5 children 17 and under, members free. 1 pm. Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1656.

STORYTELLING: Brooklyn Museum kids to a story hour. "Shores, Glorious Shores" with Allison Day. \$4-\$5 seniors and students. Free for members and children under 12. 4:30 pm. 100 Washington Ave. (718) 638-5000.

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Black Betty: 346 Metropolitan Ave. at Haverwyer Street. (718) 599-0430. www.blackbetty.net.

Bluestone Bar & Grill: 117 Columbia St. at Kane Street in Columbia Street Waterfront District. (718) 624-7450.

Boudoir Bar: At East End Hostel, 223 23rd St. at East Street in Carroll Gardens. (718) 624-8878. www.eastendhostel.com.

Brooklyn Historical Society: 128 Pierrepont St. at Canal Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 224-1111. www.brooklynhistory.org.

Celebrate Brooklyn! Prospect Park bandshell at Prospect Park. West and Ninth Street in Park Slope. (718) 655-7882. www.celebratebrooklyn.com.

Chocolate Monkey: 329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 631-0772.

The Flying Saucer Cafe: 494 Atlantic Ave. at Nevins Street in Boerum. (718) 631-0772.

Frank's Lounge: 346 Metropolitan Ave. at Haverwyer Street. (718) 599-0430. www.blackbetty.net.

502 Warren Street: 502 Warren St. at Nevins Street in Boerum. (718) 631-0772.

Freddy's Bar & Backroom: 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights. (718) 624-7035. www.freddysbar.com.

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time. Red Hook. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 396-2007. Free.

DANCE CONCERT: Cynthia King Dance Studio and Great Works. 7403 Fifth Ave. (718) 238-6044.

JEWISH LECTURE: Ethics of Our Fathers, with Rabbi Aaron Rabin. 17th Avenue. (718) 596-4840 ext. 11. Free.

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Bluestone Bar & Grill: 117 Columbia St. at Kane Street in Columbia Street Waterfront District. (718) 624-7450.

Boudoir Bar: At East End Hostel, 223 23rd St. at East Street in Carroll Gardens. (718) 624-8878. www.eastendhostel.com.

Brooklyn Historical Society: 128 Pierrepont St. at Canal Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 224-1111. www.brooklynhistory.org.

Celebrate Brooklyn! Prospect Park bandshell at Prospect Park. West and Ninth Street in Park Slope. (718) 655-7882. www.celebratebrooklyn.com.

Chocolate Monkey: 329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 631-0772.

The Flying Saucer Cafe: 494 Atlantic Ave. at Nevins Street in Boerum. (718) 631-0772.

Frank's Lounge: 346 Metropolitan Ave. at Haverwyer Street. (718) 599-0430. www.blackbetty.net.

502 Warren Street: 502 Warren St. at Nevins Street in Boerum. (718) 631-0772.

Freddy's Bar & Backroom: 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights. (718) 624-7035. www.freddysbar.com.

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new driver applicants and issuing learner permits. (718) 631-0772.

JEWISH LECTURE: Ethics of Our Fathers, with Rabbi Aaron Rabin. 17th Avenue. (718) 596-4840 ext. 11. Free.

THE HELL FESTIVAL: Brooklyn presents a multi-arts festival featuring theater, visual art, dance, poetry, music and more. Today, "The Bitter Poet: Looking for Love in Hell," 10:30 am. Also, "Lullaby to Jesus, or Holy Frankenstein?" 3:15 pm. Additionally, "Cold Fire" 4:45 pm. Also, "Moloch and Other Demons" at 7 pm. More. \$10 tickets sold at the door on a first-come basis. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 707-6189.

OUTSIDE ART: BAM Local Development Corporation hosts a performance of "Love's Labor's Lost" 10:30 am. Free. BAM Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 489-8497.

BOOT BUSH: Event hosted by Brooklyn Brewery to give President Bush the boot. \$25, 7 pm to midnight. 79 North 11th St. (718) 488-7422.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Latin music series presents "Fire and other guests." \$3, 7:30 pm. Prospect Park bandshell. Enter park at Ninth Street and Prospect Park. (718) 655-7882.

BARGE MUSIC: Presents Concerti artist featuring works by Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Mozart, Haydn and Tchaikovsky. Also, founder Ochi and Bohm play violin. \$75, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-6000.

BROOKLYN VECUM: presents "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" 6:30 in 60 minutes. \$15 (online www.brooklynvecum.com). 11:30 am. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 470-7324.

CHILDREN

BARNES AND NOBLE: Picture book hour. 11 am. 100 Court St. (718) 246-4976. Free.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids are invited to design and to craft a subway or bus stamp. Use to decorate stationery. Appropriate for ages 2 to 5. \$5 children 17 and under, members free. 1 pm. Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1656.

STORYTELLING: Brooklyn Museum kids to a story hour. "Shores, Glorious Shores" with Allison Day. \$4-\$5 seniors and students. Free for members and children under 12. 4:30 pm. 100 Washington Ave. (718) 638-5000.

OTHER

ART SHOW: Brooklyn artist Coalition hosts exhibit "Water Show: Art at the Pier." Exhibit features 500 works by over 300 emerging artists relating to water. Food, performances, music and artist talk. Noon to 6 pm. 100 Washington Ave. (718) 638-5000.

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ALCHEMY...

Continued from page 8

ply that sought to turn base metals into gold, breathes tranquility with its warm, red walls and dim lighting. The walls are lined with books on religion, meditation and tarot reading, magazines on knitting and bottles of incense and oils. Cubbies and baskets of hilly fibers and colorfully dyed yarns wait to be purchased and be transformed with "magick." A mirror lined with candles against the back wall lights the area like a fireplace. In front of it, there is a basket with a note: "Place the names of those needing healing."

"I come for the prayer," said Bobby Benson, of Park Slope. Prophet is a practicing Kabbalist, and while there is no actual prayer time during the knitting circle, Alchemy does provide a relaxing and peaceful experience.

Although Benson does not knit, he is very much a part of the studio. He can often be found winding balls of yarn, making tea or mingling with the knitters lounging on cozy chairs and couches throughout the studio.

"My thing isn't about the store," said Prophet. "It's about the atmosphere, the presence and the clients. It's a place to create beautiful things."

And beautiful things are indeed happening at Alchemy.

Prophet knits everything from dolls to black stockings (to be worn with garter belts). Currently she is working on two projects: a full-length, T-spag, black, open-weave gown out of hand-spun yarn to be worn over a slip, for herself, and a first-day-of-school sweater for her daughter, a hooded red pullover with a giant gold star and a kangaroo pocket. Somehow Prophet finds time to knit a new fall sweater every year for everyone in her family.

Not only does she knit, she also crochets, dyes fibers and spins them into yarn. She even makes neckties out of teal, walnut, birch and occasionally, ebony, all available for purchase at the studio. In October, Prophet will be self-publishing her first book: "The Dom-Knit-Trix."

Outside of the studio, she is readily available to help her students with any knitting crises that may occur without her "magical" presence; she takes emergency knitting calls on her cell phone until 11 p.m. Last Christmas, Prophet coached Endacott through a crisis over the phone only hours before it was time to exchange gifts.

"Here, it's more than just knitting," said Prophet. "It's like hand-spun magick, and I feel like I've spun my whole life into gold."



New children's book, by Park Slope author Marilyn Singer, shows how block parties create communities and friendships.

KNIT...

Continued from page 8

the store. At Knit Away, there is hardly any chatter, only the regular sounds of knitting: needles clicking together, frustrated sighs or helpful suggestions.

Unlike other instructors, Kass-Mahler prefers to throw her students right into a mix of threads and projects.

"I don't encourage scarves because then it makes them fearful of the next step or project," said Kass-Mahler, as she traveled around the table to assist her students individually. "Learning to knit is just repetition."

More of a classroom environment, the women use their time at Knit Away to bounce ideas off one another or get support.

Laura Boudry recently moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn

Heights and took up knitting. At present, she is working on an intricate, and sometimes difficult, cardigan with lace detail. Brodsky and Kass-Mahler sat frustrated over the cardigan's pattern on more than one occasion.

"Knitting is just one more thing about Brooklyn that I love," said Brodsky. "It gives it a honey, come feeling."

Meanwhile, back at the Yarn Tree, pictures on cell phones are passed around and funny husband stories are swapped. This particular evening's attendees seem as though they are barely concentrating on their projects, yet somehow wind up with masterpieces. Diaz carefully finishes the edges of a blanket that she and the others created for Provenzano's new baby.

Like childhood friends, they plan baby showers and birthday parties. They knit gifts for each other's family members. They even travel together. They will head to the

Hamptons in August for the Fiber Tour and to upstate Dutchess County, in October, for the Sheep and Wool Festival. Good helped Diaz paint her apartment when she moved and also threw a baby shower for Provenzano last winter.

For many of the knitters in Brooklyn, these weekly meetings are sacred; the only time they have to relax and hector work and family schedules.

"Even when we don't have class, I come in," said Diaz.

"Yeah," agreed Good. "I always pop in throughout the week."

The Yarn Tree, at 347 Bedford Ave. at South Fourth Street in Williamsburg, is open Monday through Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 8 p.m. Look for extended hours in the fall. Priced by sessions, classes range from \$40-\$250. Yarn: \$5.25-\$100 per skein. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. For more information, call

BOOKS

"Black Party Today" (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$16.95) is written by Marilyn Singer and illustrated by Stephanie Roth. Recommended for ages 5 to 8. On Aug. 11, Singer will read from her book at Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St., 718) 902-3846. Call for time. Log on to the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit Web site at www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cau_main.html for links to local community books.

neighbors together — to sweep the street, to decorate, to hang out and have fun, and most importantly, to get to know each other."

While everyone on Berkeley Place prepares for the block party in "Black Party Today," Lola sulks in her bedroom, vowing stubbornly not to attend the big event because she is angry with

Yasmin and Sue. Meanwhile, Yasmin and Sue run and jump around the street among their delighted neighbors. Page by page, Lola slowly works her way to her front stoop, unable to resist the outside excitement. Before you know it, Yasmin and Sue have Lola by the hands and are pulling her under the spray of the fire hydrant, all previous disagreements forgotten.

Singer, 55, and her husband, Steve Aronson, spent many years organizing block parties on the real Berkeley Place in Park Slope. Besides food and music, the block parties featured Double Dutch performances, gymnasts, rides, magicians, organized competitions with prizes and many other booths. There was also a raffle that included prizes from neighborhood stores. The money that was raised was mainly used to buy the upkeep and improve-

ment of their community garden.

Planning a block party, however, is not always easy. According to Singer, it all begins with an organized block association. From there, meetings are held and jobs (including face painting, manning the barbecue and collecting raffle prizes) are assigned.

Then residents around the block must be informed about the party. Singer recommends listing the event in local newspapers if more attendees are desired. The neighborhood YMCA and other community groups can be contacted for performers, entertainment and donations.

"The most important thing is that you get a street-closure permit, which you should do way in advance through your local community board," Singer said.

In her spare time, Singer enjoys bird watching and other nature activities. Although she has not planned a block party in a while, she still enjoys them and attends the annual Seventh Heaven religiously.

At present, Singer is working on a young-adult anthology about race relations, a collection of poems for young children and a novel for elementary school students. A veteran author, Singer has written more than 70 books for young readers. Her first book, "The Dog Who Insisted He Wasn't," was published in 1976.

"Writing is a full-time job," Singer said. "It's not just getting out a notepad and writing. It's reading and other research, and it's thinking, thinking, thinking."

Writing, like a great block party, takes time and planning, so what are you waiting for? Organize your block association, call your local community board and get your party planned before the summer 2004. And don't forget to check out Marilyn Singer's "Black Party Today" for further inspiration.

A writer's block

Children's author Marilyn Singer tells how to throw a great Brooklyn block party

By Chiara V. Cowan
for the Brooklyn Papers

Suburbanites spend lazy summer days relaxing at country clubs and swimming pools, country folk enjoy refreshing dips at lakes and rivers and beach bums bask in the comfort of warm ocean breezes. Amid all that fun, where do the city folk fit in?

Author Marilyn Singer, of Park Slope, has the answer. In her recently published children's book, "Black Party Today," Singer takes a simple, city-weekend afternoon and turns it into a fun-filled, action-packed community bash. Through the eyes and experiences of three neighborhood friends, Lola, Yasmin and Sue, a corner of Park Slope comes to life.

"I love block parties," Singer recently told GO Brooklyn via e-mail. "The best ones really bring



Tricks of the trade: Yarn Tree owner Linda LaBelle uses a swift to wind yarn into a ball.

(718) 384-8030 or visit www.theyarntree.com.

Knit Away, at 398 Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill, is open daily. Knitting circle sessions: \$20 for a single ses-

sion and \$99 for six consecutive sessions. Classes range in price from \$65-\$120. Yarn: \$1.80-\$65 per skein. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. For more information, call (718) 797-3305. —Chiara Cowan

Fixing baby's sleep patterns

Q: My baby continues to wake up several times a night. He is 4 months old and is the worst sleeper. I nurse him and he sleeps with me. We also have a 2-year-old, and this lack of sleep is driving me up the wall. —a mother

A: If baby's wiggles and giggles keep a light-sleeping mom awake all night, it's time for her to send the little guy to his room.

This sleep-deprived mother joins an ever-growing line of walking zombies who say their children are the worst sleepers. The enemy of the exhausted: parents who claim their babies sleep through the night.

As Lorilee Craker writes in her book, "O for a Thousand Nights to Sleep" (Waterbrook Press, 2003): "It doesn't take long at all for new parents to develop a carnal, wanton need for slumber. Sometimes our babies cooperate, sometimes they don't."

Stuart J. Altman, M.D., author of "The KidFixer Baby Book" (Bantam Books, 2004), says his two grown children were the "worst sleepers in the world" and were not coopera-

Parent-to-Parent

First, he says, understand that it's normal for babies to wake up during the night, and make lots of movements, sounds and little gestures.

"If the baby is not sleeping

with you, you won't hear all his little squeaks," says Altman, of Long Island. "Not every peep means, 'I'm hungry.'"

Babies who have developed good sleep habits tend to go back to sleep without help from Mom or Dad, he says. To teach your baby to snooze for longer stretches, start with a soothing bedtime routine, then put baby in his crib in a drowsy but awake state, Altman suggests.

Knowing that your baby is well and has been fed, changed and cuddled, do not scoop him up right away if he cries. Let him cry for about five minutes, then give him a comforting rub. If he cries again, wait another five minutes before going in again to help him settle down. The same goes for nighttime wakings.

Part of the thinking behind sleep training is that a baby is more likely to be able to soothe himself in the night if he wakes up in the same familiar spot.

If you opt to try these sleep-conditioning steps, expect them to take a few nights. If they can't stand to hear your baby cry, this approach will not match your parenting style.

By Betsy Flieger

Five nap-takers.

Altman, who has been a pediatrician for 25 years, says he and his wife learned the hard way what he advises parents to do when they say: "Help me make it through the night."

"If the baby is not sleeping

Some babies just sleep better by themselves because they toss and turn in bed, says a mother of a 1-year-old girl. She uses a warm bath with lavender and chamomile as her daughter's bedtime routine.

One mother says her daughter also slept with her, and woke her up several times a night at four months of age. The baby was nursing every two hours until Mom was determined to get her on a routine of nursing naps often during the day and less at night.

A grandmother notes how difficult the 24/7 mothering job is: "Having a 4-month-old and 2-year-old really tests your patience. Find someone who can help until you get things straightened out."

Can you help? "My 4-year-old is having extreme separation issues. If I leave the room, with or without telling him, he cries. He insists that I need to be with him at all times. I feel choked. How have other parents dealt with this?"

If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at pp@ppatt.net.

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Continued from page 11...

Northrix

66 N. Sixth St. at Myrtle Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 599-5103, www.northrix.com

July 31: (Upstairs) Midnight Moves, Vicious, I'm Still Ecstatic, The Nani, 8 p.m., \$6. Aug. 3: Sons and Daughters, Adam, The Double, 8 p.m., \$10. Aug. 6: The Minors, The Forsythe Troupe, Grey Does Matter, 8 p.m., \$10. Aug. 6: Engine Down, Piled to Gunner, The Forms, 8 p.m., \$10. Aug. 7: Chris Loewen (local band), National Style, Vietnam, Pity Sing (Brooklyn), 8 p.m., \$7 advance, \$10 day of show.

ParlorJazz

117 Vanderbilt Ave. at Myrtle Avenue in Green Hill (718) 855-1951, www.parlorjazz.com

July 31: The Michael Weiss Quartet, 9 p.m., \$20. Aug. 7: The Hank Johnson Trio, 9 p.m., \$20.

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(Two locations)

1904 Surf Ave. at Keyport Park in Coney Island (718) 449-3200, www.peggyoneills.com

Wednesday: 80s Night, 10 p.m., FREE. July 31: Highlight Blvd, 10 p.m., FREE. Aug. 2: The Dirty Straybs, 10 p.m., FREE. Aug. 7: The Canby Brothers, 10 p.m., FREE.

Pete's Candy Store

709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg (718) 302-3770, www.petes Candystore.com

Sunday: Open! Menu, 6:30-8:30 p.m., FREE. July 31: Special Chant, Matty Charles and the Valentines, 9 p.m., FREE. Aug. 1: Paul Schneider, Ken Reame, Van Housen, 9 p.m., FREE. Aug. 2: Dean Fields, Julian Valard, 8:30 p.m., FREE.

Aug. 3: The Patience, School for the Deaf, 9 p.m., FREE. Aug. 4: Josh, Megan, 9 p.m., FREE. Aug. 5: Michael Jones (J. Dorelli), The Laura Popovitch Show, Adam Snyder, 8 p.m., FREE. Aug. 6: Mike Jones, The Real Heroes, 9 p.m., FREE. Aug. 7: Jennifer Jackson, Nedelle and Thom, 9 p.m., FREE.

Ripple Bar

769 Washington Ave. at Sterling Place in Crown Heights, No phone, www.ripplebar.com

Friday: Afternoon Groove, 9 p.m., FREE.

Samba Restaurant & Nightclub

924 Third Ave. at 96th Street in Bay Ridge (718) 439-0475.

Thursday: Carnivale with DJa Meese and Stazaband, 8 p.m. & A.S. Samba Dancers & Bongo Percussion, 10 p.m., \$5 men, women free.

Sideshows by the Seashore

3006 West 12th St. at Surf Avenue in Coney Island (718) 372-5159, www.coneyisland.com

Saturday: Sideshows by the Seashore, featuring 10 talents, including Ray "The Foreign Music," Eak, "The Illustrated Man" and The Amazing, Blazing Tyler Fire, 11:11 p.m., \$5 adults, \$3 children under 12. Friday: Sideshow by the Seashore, 2-6 p.m., \$10. Aug. 7: The Bombshell Girls, 10 p.m., \$15.

SixSeven

667 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in East Green (718) 855-8558, www.piggery.com

Saturday: D.J. Hiro Muzio spins disc-

Southpaw

125 Fifth Ave. at St. John's Place in Park Slope (718) 230-0236, www.southpaw.com

July 31: Blues to Nation, Mc Met, 9 p.m., \$10. Aug. 1: Inez, Sengay Pope, 7 p.m., \$10. Aug. 4: Vince Weisman, 8 p.m., \$10. Aug. 6: "The Coffin Diggers, The Big Sleep, Peasander 2, 8 p.m., \$8. Aug. 7: The Rub with Dita Cosmo Baker, Ayres, Crooked and Brandon Bring'em, 10 p.m., \$5 women, \$10 men.

Toddy's Bar & Grill

96 Barry St. at North Eighth Street in Williamsburg (718) 384-8888, www.toddysbar.com

Saturday: Live jazz and pop standards, 9 p.m., FREE.

Tommy's Tavern

200 Fifth Ave. at Freeman Street in Greenpoint (718) 383-9699, www.tommysbar.com

Aug. 4: The Amber Smith, Cassiope for the Family, alone, Basile, The Oxford Collapse, 8 p.m., \$6.

Trash Bar

256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 599-1000, www.trashbar.com

Monday: The Blue Van, 9 p.m., FREE. Tuesday: Kicks, 9:30 p.m., FREE.

July 31: Ladyfest Benefit with "Beat Off" (Semi-derivative competition), The Assault, Live Grift, The Dead Bunnies, 8:30 p.m., \$7. Aug. 1: Kronic, Anne Courtney and The Late Bloomers, 9 p.m., \$5. Aug. 4: The Shit, The Wall, 9 p.m., \$5. Aug. 7: The Ladies Room with David Pink, David, James, Albany, 10 p.m., \$7. Aug. 7: The Drassels, Stark, Masha Gromova, 10 p.m., \$7. The Victoria Lucas, Theashbare Saints, Broombox, 10 p.m., \$6.

Two Boots

514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope (718) 499-3253, www.twobootsofbrooklyn.com

July 31: The Cucumbers, 10 p.m., FREE. Aug. 6: Young Mike Brock and the Music Grinders, 10 p.m., FREE.

200 Fifth

200 Fifth Ave. at SoHo Street in Park Slope (718) 383-2925, www.200fifth.com

Saturday: DJ Blazer One and Big Will spin salsa, reggae, hip-hop, 11 p.m., \$10. 10 p.m., \$10. After, women free. Saturday: Live salsa bands, 10 p.m., \$10.

Waterfront Ale House

155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights (718) 522-3794, www.waterfrontalehouse.com

July 31: Free Vodka Quizzes, 11 p.m., FREE. Aug. 6: Dimitri's Black Coffee Blue Band, 11 p.m., FREE.

Woodster

141 South Fifth St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, no phone. Aug. 7: Orchestra, Fast Forward, As Big As A Bird, Behind the Actresses, The Body, 8 p.m., \$4.

—compiled by Ed Beeson

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BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Clones play 'musical managers'

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Cyclones' 3-2 home victory on July 25 against the Aberdeen Ironbirds featured an unusual side-game of musical managers.

In the bottom of the third, after Cyclone Stacy Bennett flied out and Kevin Rios struck out, Corey Coles singled to right. Coles attempted to steal second and was called out. Manager Tony Tjerina argued the call and was ejected after an extended, heated dispute.

Bating coach Donovan Mitchell then took the reins as manager, and moved from coaching first to coaching third in place of Tjerina. Pitching coach Hector Berrios took over as the first-base coach.

In the top of the fourth, acting-manager Mitchell argued against the call of home plate umpire Tom Clarke when the arbiter ruled that a two-strike swing by an Aberdeen batter was a foul tip.

Before long, Mitchell was ejected.

Berrios then took over as both manager and third-base coach. Catcher Aaron Hathaway, not in the second game lineup, coached at first base.

Aberdeen retained its 1-0 lead through the fifth inning and there was yet another Cyclone dispute with an umpire, this time involving Berrios and Clarke.

Berrios, well aware that he was the last member of the Brooklyn coaching staff still standing, did not get himself tossed. This quieted much of the Brooklyn fans' light-hearted speculation about the identity of the new Brooks manager should he have been given the thumbs-up — would it have been trainer Ruben Barerra?

A Jekyll and Hyde performance

On July 24, Scott Hyde was the Brooklyn starter in a 3-2 loss to Aberdeen in the second game of a home twin bill.

Scott started the game by performing like the infamous Mr. Hyde as the Brooks pitcher threw the



Derran Watts slides into home plate ahead of the tag during Saturday's game against the Aberdeen Ironbirds.



first 14 pitches of the game for balls, walking the first three batters and inspiring boos and catcalls from the crowd.

Hyde suddenly turned into an effective Dr. Jekyll as he recovered his control to retire the next three Aberdeen hitters, allowing only one run in the inning.

After a Jekyll-like 1-2-3 inning in the third, the Cyclones' starter once again became Mr. Hyde, allowing a homer in the fourth.

The Clones eventually lost the game 3-2, but neither Dr. Jekyll nor Mr. Hyde played a role — reliever Eddy Camacho gave up the winning run.

'Cyclone' Joe Williams

Joe Williams came to the Cyclones as merely "Joe," but he has picked up a nickname, "Cyclone," and it's more than just a reference to the Brooklyn team and the ancient roller coaster beyond the left field fence.

The Joe Williams is a 25-year-old southpaw from St. Xavier University in Illinois. A pre-pro major, he was 7-3 with a 1.33 ERA there. He was also a DH in college and he hit .369 with eight home runs and 61 RBIs this season.

Does this new Cyclone know about the fame of a Joe Williams who came before him?

"Soon after I got here, Dave Campanaro (the Cyclones media relations manager) put an article in my locker about 'Cyclone' Joe Williams," said the pitcher. "I learned how great he was."

He isn't kidding.

The original "Cyclone" Joe Williams was born around 1885 in Texas.

He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999 for his starring play in the Negro Leagues. He was known both as "Smoke Joe" and as "Cyclone" because of the great speed of his fastball.

Complete records of the Negro Leagues don't exist, but Williams was unquestionably one of the greatest pitchers in any league, of all time. He compiled a record of 22-7-1 in exhibition games against major leagues.

He pitched for many Negro League teams, including the Brooklyn Royal Giants.

In a game against the Bushwicks, a very famous Brooklyn semi-pro team, Williams pitched for the Kansas City Monarchs and struck out 24 batters in 12 innings.

The Cyclones' Joe Williams does not have the fame of the greatest black pitcher of the opening decades of the 20th century, but he has gotten off to a good start with a 3-1 record and 2.16 ERA.

Few pitchers have equalled the feats of the right-handed Joe Williams. But certainly his success should be an inspiration for the "Cyclone" Joe of today's Brooklyn team as he tries to fight his way up the ladder to the major leagues.

Negro League tribute

On Saturday, Aug. 7, the Cyclones will host a tribute to the Negro Leagues. During the game, the Cyclones will wear the uniform of the Negro League Brooklyn Royal Giants.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants were organized in 1905 and won league championships in 1909, 1910, 1914 and 1916. The team featured Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher "Smoke" Joe Williams, also known as "The Cyclone."

Present that night will be at least two former players from the Negro Leagues: Jim Robinson and Armando Vazquez.

Dinner at Applebee's

On July 25, the Cyclones and their fans met after that day's game, for dinner at Applebee's in Sheepshead Bay.

Only about a dozen Cyclones fans took advantage of the opportunity to mingle in a relaxed manner with their team.

There is, however, another opportunity for Cyclones buffs to share a meal with their team.

On Tuesday, Aug. 10, after the home game against Staten Island, the Arriving Hibachi Steakhouse and Sushi Bar, at 8814 Fourth Ave. in Bay Ridge, will host another fan-Cyclones get-together. Call the restaurant at (718) 238-9880 or contact the Cyclones at (718) 449-8497 for more information.

Brooklyn remains atop division

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Aberdeen 3 Brooklyn 2

July 24 at Keyspan Park (Game 1)

An inconsistent performance by Brooklyn starter Scott Hyde marked the Cyclones' (20-13) loss to the Ironbirds (19-16).

Hyde walked the first three batters he faced, but then showed control of his pitches as he struck out Carlos Mendez, induced Carl Smith to ground out, driving in a run, and then retired Cory Shuler on a fly ball.

After a scoreless Brooklyn first, Hyde put the Ironbirds down 1-2-3.

Brooklyn took the lead in the second when Tyler Davidson tripled and scored on Ambiorix Concepcion's single. Concepcion eventually scored on a wild pitch.

After a scoreless third inning, Hyde gave up a home run to Morgan Cledenin to tie the game.

Eddy Camacho (1-2), who was charged with the loss, came in to pitch for the Cyclones in the fifth, and Aberdeen took the lead as Levi Robinson singled and later scored on a sacrifice fly.

That ended the scoring for the first of two seven-inning games as each team managed only four hits.

Brooklyn 3 Aberdeen 2

July 24 at Keyspan Park (Game 2)

Cyclones starter Michael Devaney (0-0) pitched 4-2-3 innings, allowing only a run and three hits and Julio Rodriguez pitched a perfect 2-1/3 innings in relief to lead the Brooks to the win



in the seven-inning game.

The Cyclones lost their manager, Tony Tjerina, after he was ejected from the game in the third inning.

Then they lost their acting manager, bating coach Donovan Mitchell, who was ejected in the fourth inning. But the Cyclones (21-13) won the game with pitching coach Hector Berrios taking the reins.

The Ironbirds (19-17) scored in the second when Carlos Mendez tripled and scored on Corey Shuler's groundout.

In the Brooklyn sixth, Coles singled and then went to second on a wild pitch. Derran Watts sacrificed Coles to third before Dante Brinkley singled to right, bringing in Coles and tying the game. Tyler Davidson singled and Ambiorix Concepcion walked to load the bases. Then Grant Pomas singled through the left side to drive in two.

The victory put the McNamara Division-leading Cyclones two-and-a-half games up on second-place Hudson Valley, and moved the Brooks to three games ahead of third-place Aberdeen.

Brooklyn 10 Aberdeen 4

July 25 at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones (22-13) pounded 14 hits to win the rubber match of their home series against Aberdeen (19-18). Mike Swindell (2-0) started for Brooklyn and pitched four scoreless innings before giving up four runs in the fifth and leaving the game.

The Clones began the scoring with three runs in the first. After leadoff man Corey Coles grounded out, Derran Watts singled up the middle. Dante Brinkley singled to right center and Watts went to third on the hit, with Brinkley advancing to second on the throw. Tyler "Tarzan" Davidson walked to load the bases before Watts scored and the other runners moved up on a wild pitch. Ambiorix Concepcion then singled to short, scoring Brinkley and moving Davidson to third, but Concepcion was thrown out trying to advance to second on the play. Grant Pomas singled in Davidson.

Brooklyn scored three more runs in the second when Ryan Coultas doubled, Kevin Rios walked and Coles bunted for a hit, loading the bases. Watts then walked, forcing in a run. Brinkley singled in Rios, leaving the bases loaded for Davidson, who walked, forcing in Coles.

With the score 6-0 the Ironbirds scored four in the fifth, knocking out Swindell, who was replaced by Marcelo Perez (1-2), who picked up the win.

Brooklyn added a run in the fifth on Davidson's home run to left, two more runs in the seventh and another tally in the eighth to close out the scoring.

Aberdeen 3 Brooklyn 1

July 26 at Aberdeen

After three games at Brooklyn, the Ironbirds (20-18) and the Cyclones (22-14) moved to Maryland for a two-game series.

"Cyclone" Joe Williams (3-1) started for the visitors and pitched six shutout innings, allowing only five hits while striking out five and walking four.

Brooklyn opened the scoring in the fourth when Tyler Davidson singled, and eventually went to second on an error. Davidson scored on a single by Ryan Coultas.

In the eighth, hitting against Brooklyn reliever Jose Rodriguez (1-1), who took the loss, Aberdeen's Carlos Mendez singled and was forced out on a grounder.

The Ironbirds then loaded the bases on two walks. Morgan Cledenin singled in two runs and a third scored on an error by catcher Danilo Reyesano.

Brooklyn 7 Aberdeen 5

July 27 at Aberdeen

The Cyclones (23-14) were leading 7-5 in the bottom of the eighth inning when the game was called because of rain. Aberdeen (20-19) had the potential tying run at first and second with one out and a 2-1 count on the Ironbird's C.J. Smith when the game was interrupted. Initially, the New York-Penn League office ruled that the game was suspended. Later, the league declared a win for Brooklyn.

The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Beep-ball: A sight for all to see

THE BOMBERS wore dark-blue pinstriped baseball uniforms, and they were gathered behind the third-base dugout in Brooklyn. Some of them were big, athletic guys.

Were these players the Bronx Bombers of old, in Brooklyn to challenge the Dodgers? No, these athletes were the Long Island Bombers of today, a team of blind and visually impaired players, at Keyspan Park on July 25, ostensibly to challenge a team from the office of state Sen. Mary Golden.

But they were really there to challenge themselves. "I play baseball because I love the challenge of it," said Braulio Thorne, a 6-foot-3, 240-pound left-hander who seems to have the muscle to power a baseball over the seldom-reached right field fence at Keyspan.

Braulio is the captain of the Bombers, a team that plays "beep baseball," a version of the national pastime for those with poor or no eyesight.

"We all love baseball. We just happen to be blind and visually impaired," explains Ted Fass, executive director of the Bombers, based in Rockville Center, Long Island, but comprised of men and women from throughout the metropolitan area.

"Beep baseball" uses a median-sized ball that resembles a large softball. The ball has a beeper in it that alerts players to its approach.

TWO BASES are used, one at third and one at first. The bases are 48 to 54 inches high and covered with vinyl or canvas; they're 100 feet from home plate, each with a sound device that emits a beep so that players can head to its location.

A run is scored when a player hits the ball and reaches either base before a fielder controls the batted ball.

The pitchers in "beep baseball" are sighted players and the pitcher's goal is to provide a good pitch for his teammates. The pitcher may not field the ball, since he is really a member of the offense.

Sighted volunteers are in the field to call out the location of the batted ball to the players.

Sighted players wear blindfolds when they bat, but they don't use the blindfolds in the field — it's too dangerous for them.

The field for the game was set up on the right and center field grass at Keyspan, with home plate on the grass in back of the ballpark's regular first base.

The public address announcer told the crowd a little about the Bombers and the rules of the game and explained that the crowd should be silent when players are hitting, fielding and running.

"The crowd should react like it's tennis," explained Bomber Steve Guerra. "Players need to hear the beeps from the ball and bases. Otherwise, it can get pretty dangerous. So we ask the crowd not to clap until a play is over."

The Bombers game was scheduled before the Cyclones' regular game against Aberdeen. The games had been opened, but as the Bombers were warming up, the Keyspan crowd was still sparse.

The game begins with Golden, the first batter for the "A" team. He misses the first pitch by several feet. On the second pitch, he takes a good swing and comes close to hitting the ball — no mean feat when you're wearing a blindfold. Allowed to hit without the blindfold since he has two strikes, Golden grounds out.

Here are some of the game's individual moments that should be recalled.

A Brooklynite, Romeo Edmead, a 6-foot-2 right handed Bomber, stepped up to bat in the third inning and sent a rocket down the third-base line, just foul. Although Edmead eventually made out, his blast was the hardest hit ball of the game, for either team. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Romeo works as a sports information analyst with CBS Sports.

"I play because I love it, love the challenge of it," said Edmead as he received congratulations from his teammates for his blast.

THE CROWD at Keyspan had grown, and they were cooperating with the players by being silent until each play was over, and only then cheering for good efforts.

Braulio Thorne had an at-bat that drew sustained applause from the crowd. He hit a line drive short off the legs of the pitcher, who stands only 20 feet away from home plate and wears a mask — for good reason. Braulio was declared out because a batted ball must go past the pitcher, but the line drive proved the value of the sighted pitcher using a catcher's mask.

Later in the game, Donovan Mitchell, the Cyclones' batting coach, in full uniform, pinch-hit for the "A" team. Mitchell was wearing a blindfold and he missed the first pitch by swinging early against the beeping ball. In his second swing, he came closer to hitting the ball. He was now permitted to peek out of his blindfold and he grounded out.

"It was the hardest athletic thing that I ever had to do," admitted the chagrined Mitchell. "Trying to hit a ball that you can't see is really tough."

How hard was it for him to run to first base without sight? "Not that hard," said Donovan. "I cheated a little and peeked out of the blindfold — plus the sighted volunteer kept calling to me to let me know where the bag was."

Mitchell was a good sport to take part in the game. The crowd cheered his efforts.

What did Donovan learn from the experience? "Seeing [the Bombers] play reminds us to take nothing for granted and to give our best efforts every day in whatever we do, just like they do," said Mitchell.

Speaking about best efforts, mention must be made of a play by Bombers outfielder Nick Esposito. A teacher by trade, Esposito has muscles like those of Cyclones first baseman Jim Buttrick. And Esposito isn't just strong — he's also fast. On one ball hit to the outfield, Esposito made a sliding grab worthy of any player, sighted or not, and the outfielder drew a loud cheer for the spectacular play.

Watching the Bombers run to first base also brought out another point. We have all seen numerous examples of major league players "styling" as they linger near the batter's box on an apparent home run. Sometimes the ball doesn't leave the park and the batter settles for a double rather than a triple because of his late start out of the box. We have all seen the batter hit a grounder to shortstop and then dog it when running to first. Every so often, that type of effort costs a team a game.

Those lucky fans who caught the play of the Bombers were witnesses to no such efforts. The Bombers raced out of the batter's box, sprinting pell-mell down the first base line, heading towards a four-foot-high base that they could not see. They dove full out, hurtling through the air like a football player diving for a tackle, as they lunged for the base.

The Cyclones were on the field watching the preliminary game. They're usually a hustling bunch, but maybe this game was an inspiration. The Brooklyn boys scored their runs in each of the first two innings in their victory against Aberdeen.

The next time I see a major league game, I want to see each player run to first base with the all-out effort of a Long Island Bomber.

Brooklyn Papers columnist Ed Shakespeare's book, "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn," is available at amazon.com.

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